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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05 OES-06 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

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R 140110Z APR 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA CNO CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT USDAO CANBERRA

USDAO WELLINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 089631

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS

REF: USDAO CANBERRA 435 (DTG 240718Z MARCH 76)

1. REFTEL REQUESTED GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO MR. FOGARTY OF AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY CONCERNING QUESTIONS ASKED BY UNNAMED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ABOUT U.S. CIVIL HARBOR RESTRICTIONS ON NPW AND/OR NPW OR CONVENTIONAL SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. VISITS BY U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS (NPW) TO FOREIGN PORTS ARE MADE SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON OPERATION OF U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS IN FOREIGN PORTS (PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO GOA BY AMEMBASSY CANBERRA) AND THE PROVEN SAFETY RECORD OF OUR NPW. FOREIGN NPW ARE PERMITTED TO VISIT U.S. PORTS BASED ON RECEIPT OF ASSURANCES SIMILAR TO THOSE CONTAINED IN THE U.S. STANDARD STATEMENT AND A SATISFACTORY SAFETY RECORD ON THE PART OF THESE SHIPS. EXCEPT FOR THESE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES, THERE ARE NO SPECIAL PORT REGULATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS VISITING U.S. PORTS. OF COURSE MOST U.S. PORTS HAVE REGU-

LATIONS, WHICH APPLY TO ALL SHIPS, COVERING SUCH AREAS AS TRAFFIC SCHEMES, NAVIGATION, ETC. THESE REGULATIONS WOULD APPLY TO NPW AS WELL AS THEIR CONVENTIONALLY POWERED COUNTERPARTS.

- 3. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL U.S. CIVIL HARBOR REGULATIONS ON U.S. WARSHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS U.S. POLICY TO NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SPECIFIC LOCATIONS, INCLUDING SHIPS.
- 4. FYI. IN VIEW OF THE LONG-STANDING SENSITIVITY OF THE NPW VISIT ISSUE IN AUSTRALIA, WE CONSIDER IT PREFERABLE TO PROVIDE THE RESPONSE CONTAINED IN PARAS 2 AND 3 FROM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA VIA THE NORMAL GOA CONTACTS AND LET THE GOA DEAL WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT ON THIS MATTER. END FYI.

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